



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019

BERLIN



PADILEIA: EASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON AND JORDAN

AT A GLANCE

- The Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA) is the programme's flagship and was formed to meet the educational needs of a mobile, and digitally-literate refugee population in Jordan and Lebanon. With a shared interest in innovative digital pedagogy, student support and delivery, PADILEIA consists of three universities: King's College London, Al Al-Bayt University in Jordan and the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, a digital-education NGO, Kiron Open Higher Education and a leader in online learning, FutureLearn. The programme is funded by SPHEIR (Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform) programme and is established by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). It is designed to catalyse innovative partnerships in low-income countries to improve the performance, governance and influence of higher education systems and institutions.
- The project design includes three learning formats: short online courses, blended foundation certificate programs and classroom-based learning, with a complementary online subcomponent.
- The Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service at the American University of Beirut with the support of King's College London is offering an eight-month blended foundation certificate program for Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon.

CORE OBJECTIVES

To pilot an effective, accessible, scalable and sustainable blended educational model with the goals of: (1) Increasing access to higher education and quality vocational training programs, (2) Enhancing transferable skills for refugees and host communities in Lebanon and Jordan, (3) Enabling better integration of refugees into host communities as well as preparing them for their return.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- A third of foundation certificate graduates in Lebanon and Jordan are enrolled in university or employed.
- Over 80% of graduate students from the foundation certificate enjoy learning online and report they consider it valuable for their learning.
- 1066 learners enrolled to the online English courses in Jordan and Lebanon as well as an additional 766 learners in Syria.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Providing locally relevant and tailored student content is fundamental to a positive student experience and is a key strength of PADILEIA.
2. End of year evaluations involve students, faculty members and PADILEIA partners. This leads to an interesting collaboration between course "design" and "course delivery".
3. The reduction of scholarship opportunities for Syrian refugees and the ongoing gap between the eligibility criteria of currently offered scholarships and the refugee students' profile represents a challenging external factor for the partnership to achieve its goal in easing access to higher education

FURTHER INFO

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/>

<https://padileia.org/>

